

# C H U R C H   N E W S

## F R O M   T H E   N O R T H E R N   C O U N T R I E S

Edited by the Northern Ecumenical Institute  
Sigtuna, Sweden

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No. 22

December 18th, 1956.

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### Large Contributions from the Northern Churches in Aid of Hungary.

Since the end of October very large sums have been collected in all the Northern countries in aid of the population of Hungary and the Hungarian refugees. A number of different relief organisations have collected money and clothing and also the Church relief organizations have made considerable contributions. The collections taken in the churches have resulted in larger sums than at any other previous church collection.

Already on December 1st, two thousand Hungarian refugees arrived in Denmark, Norway, and Sweden and the Church relief organizations have volunteered to be responsible for the care of these refugees. The plan is, as time goes by, to absorb this contingent of refugees in the Northern communities.

Countless organizations and groups, also in Church circles, have published statements expressing strong disapproval of the oppression and terror which wiped out the freedom of the Hungarian nation, and are appealing for effective help wherever possible.

### DENMARK

The invitation to a Russian church delegation to visit Denmark decided upon by the Danish bishops in September (see CN No. 20), in continuation of the Danish church delegation's trip to Russia last year, has been postponed until further notice in view of recent events in Hungary. Moreover, shortly after the tragic 4th of November the Bishops Erik Jensen and Fuglsang-Damgaard stated that, having been members of this delegation to Russia, they intended to send a personal letter to the Metropolitan Nikolai deploring the Russian





oppression of Hungary and appealing to him to use his influence for the Hungarian people and the peace in the world. The text of this letter has not been published.

### Impressions from the Rumanian Orthodox Church.

Under the leadership of Bishop Skat Hoffmeyer, Århus, a Danish Church delegation has visited the Orthodox Church in Rumania during October and November. The delegation was received with cordial and grandiose hospitality, evidently originating in a desire for understanding between the churches and the nations. This was stated by one of the members of the delegation, Rev. Svend Borregaard, Copenhagen. About the impressions received during the visit, he further relates,

"Rumania is, of course, a people's democratic republic whose Government openly and unquestionably confesses to the materialistic ideology of Communism. But in recognition of how much religion means to the nation the Government has agreed to accord all the 18 million inhabitants the right to join a religious community of any kind whatsoever, as long as it does not involve any activity opposed to the State. The Government includes a Ministry of Cult which deals with matters relating to the 14 - 15 recognized religious denominations. By far the largest of these is the Orthodox Church with approximately 14 million members.

Priests and bishops are chosen by the Church, but must obtain State recognition in order to be able to execute their duties. All recognized priests receive a state grant almost equivalent to their modest salary from the Church.

In principle, the State does not interfere in the doctrines and Church services, and it is an accepted matter of fact that the "ideology" of the Church is different from that of the State. The discussion between Materialism and Christianity has to be conducted on a scientific level only and with no object of propagation by either party. Church denominations are not permitted, either, to propagate against one another - something which by the way has been of good influence on the relationship between the various denominations. The Ministry of Cult employs some hundred inspectors throughout the country which represent the State in dealing with the local church authorities.

In their sermons the priests may not touch upon political subjects, the schools have no religious instruction, but the Church is allowed to give religious instruction in the church buildings, a privilege of which the Orthodox Church does not much avail itself, however, as it has always stressed the importance of the devotional service rather than that of teaching. But there is more preaching now than before - on all Sundays and Holy Days. Much is being done to improve the standard of the clergy. All vicars, for instance, every fifth year have to attend a two months' course at one of the two ecclesiastical institutes which have taken the place of the former divinity faculties of the universities.

The very large church attendance was conspicuous and also the many young men and women in the congregations. At a festival service in the Cathedral of Bukarest on a week-day morning the attendance was so overwhelming that loudspeakers had to be mounted on





the church walls in order to make it possible for the thousands who could not find room inside the Cathedral to follow the service in the close. The relationship between the clergy and the population was characterized by a natural friendliness.

The Patriarch Justinian has introduced a reform of very great importance. Most of the land formerly owned by the Church has been handed over to the State. The monks and the nuns are now working in the monasteries and convents. The nuns weave various things and fabricate earthenware, while the monks are carpenters, besides, of course, attending to their duties in the churches where they sing their hours and liturgies with an unforgettable fervour and joy. There is a large influx of young people to the monasteries and convents - most of the nuns we met were young. In connection with most of the big monasteries and convents there are theological seminaries for young people from 14 - 18 years of age who are to be trained as choristers, priests, and, in the case of women, as convent superiors. Priests and convent superiors receive their final training at one of the ecclesiastical institutes."

#### The Ecumenical Institute in Copenhagen Inaugurated.

The Ecumenical Institute in Copenhagen, established in the villa of the late Professor Jens Nørregaard, was opened at an inauguration ceremony on December 4th. Professor K.E. Skydsgaard, the leader of the Institute, says that the building up of the library and the archives of periodicals is well on its way, and it is hoped that the new Institute may become the frame work around extensive ecumenical studies. It will also be possible to give lectures on ecumenical subjects as well as to conduct study groups at the Institute

"I believe that there is a need for an Ecumenical Institute," Professor Skydsgaard states. "We have organizations to deal with practical ecumenical tasks, and the foundation of such activities is and ought to be the knowledge of other denominations. The ecumenical movement has to be based on studies, not on feelings."

#### Visiting Service Being Organized in Copenhagen.

In the course of the past few months a number of Copenhagen congregations within the Lutheran National Church have been preparing an organized visiting service conducted by laymen. It is planned to begin quietly on this scheme at the beginning of the new year.

One of the clergymen most enthusiastic about the realization of these plans, Rev. Jørgen Nissen, Copenhagen, tells in an article in the just published annual report of the Copenhagen Church Foundation about his experiences in his own parish where a visiting service has been regularly conducted during the whole of this year. Rev. Jørgen Nissen emphasizes how very important it is that a group of laymen has undertaken this service which, quite simply, is far more than the ministers working in the big Copenhagen parishes can cope with. Experience shows that there are lots of people who are very happy to have such visits, not the least many elderly and lonely people of whom there is a great number.





As an example of the reception which the visitors get who usually are sent out two by two Rev. Nissen mentions the first evening in the course of which 34 representatives of the Church called on 155 homes. In 97 of these the visitors were cordially received, in 32 cases they were turned away civilly or unkindly, in 47 places the visits were paid at an inconvenient time. In 72 cases a new visit was arranged for.

The visits are carefully planned by a visiting centre so that there is nothing haphazard about them, and in many cases they are repeated month after month. Everyone taking part in this visiting service is trained through special instruction classes and with regard to the qualifications necessary. Rev. Nissen says: The visitors ought to be people who love the Church and who wish to see its cause furthered in their parish, people who live by the Word of God and are communicants, and, finally, people who have natural gifts for coming into contact with other people and who are above 25 years of age.

Among the events to which the "church foreigners" are invited are special 50-minutes services on week-day evenings in the Frihavn Church at which Rev. Nissen is the rector. Such a service was, moreover, shown in the Danish television recently. The service was a thanksgiving service for home and matrimony held once a year and drawing as many people as a Christmas Eve service. Through singing and speech much of the special atmosphere of a church wedding ceremony was re-created and the whole service had the nature of being a thanksgiving to God for the riches bestowed upon men and women in matrimony and home.

## FINLAND

### Church Minister Approves of Soviet Action in Hungary.

In Finland as well as in the other Northern countries Church circles have clearly expressed their disapproval of the interference in Hungary by the Soviet powers. It is characteristic for the situation that it has caused wide attention and aroused sharp protests that a church minister, Rev. Nils Bygård, rector at Vårdö on Åland, in a speech on the occasion of a visit by some artists from the Soviet Union, declared that he approved of the Russian action in Hungary because it spared the country a long and destructive civil war.

### Archbishop Salomies on the Late President Ryti.

In his address at the funeral of the recently deceased former President, Risto Ryti, the Finnish Archbishop, Ilmari Salomies, described the President as being "a gift from God to the Finnish people". It has to be remembered that President Ryti was sentenced to ten years of hard labour as a War Criminal at the end of the War. The Archbishop said, among other things,

"We know that hidden behind his quiet demeanor was a foundation, a rock. The servant of the Church who visited him on the evening following upon the day when the sentences of the War Criminals had been passed in order to bring him the greetings of the Church and





the Congregation, received a strong proof of what the Word of God meant to this man. He did not find a brokenhearted man but one who with peace in his heart could say, "I have to-day read in the Bible about how the disciples on their way from the meeting of the Council rejoiced because they had been found worthy to suffer for the sake of the name of Jesus". We thank God for the gift bestowed upon us through him and we pray that He, who has held His hand over our nation at all times will also lead it by His strong hand in times to come."

On the same occasion Professor L.A. Puntila stated, "If it is a crime to love one's country and one's people more than one's own right to life, then the sentence of Risto Ryti has been just. If on the other hand it is regarded to be a virtue, then a miscarriage of justice has taken place in his case".

#### "Hold Fast the Scripture and the Profession".

The "Old Lästadians", a theologically conservative movement in the Finnish Lutheran National Church, at its Preachers' Meeting recently in Jyväskylä published a declaration calling for faithfulness towards the Holy Scripture and the Profession. The declaration reads as follows,

"At this in many respects uncertain time we are seriously worried, not to say actually horrified, at the confusion apparent in our beloved National Church in regard to the written Word of God and the Lutheran Profession. For reasons of conscience we cannot remain silent in this matter. In hard times the Holy Writ and the marrowy message of the scripts of Profession have given strength and bearing to our whole nation. Now, if ever, the Lutheran Church should continue steadfastly in the Word of God and study the Bible in the light of the scripts of the Lutheran Profession, so that we in the Holy Scripture might have the firm foundation revealed by the Holy Ghost to the first congregation and to former generations. May we act according to Its eternal truths both in our lives and in our faith."

#### Lively Spiritual Activity Among Officers of the Army.

During the last month "Spiritual Days" for the Finnish officers were celebrated in Koria. Such "Days" have been celebrated regularly every year since 1946. Representatives of the various cantonments take part in these "Days" so that the contact between professing Christians among the officers is kept up in this way. Also among the officers of the reserve there is a great spiritual activity. Thus not less than 30 meetings were held in various places during the last year and in their clubs some 100 "spiritual" committees have been working. Perhaps the non-commissioned officers of the army are the most energetic. In many places they conduct Sunday-schools. Last month the wives of the non-commissioned officers also had their "Spiritual Days".

#### Sacred Service in Alcohol Factory.

"The Congregation of the Old Church" in Helsinki (Helsingfors) has quite recently worked systematically for establishing contacts with industries and business in their vicinity. As a step in this





direction a devotional prayer service for workers and staff members was held recently at the alcohol factory at which Dean Virkkunen and Rev. Jouko Leino spoke.

#### Finnish Church Legislation Being Revised.

At the Finnish Church Synod to be held next time in 1948 a revision and bringing up to date of the Finnish Church Legislation will probably take place. The Committee set up at the last Church Synod in 1935 consisting of Himo J. Jalla, administrative director, as chairman, and the Bishops G.E. Kallivirta and Matti Simojoki, has just completed the draft proposal to be put before the Ministers' Meeting for perusal before being presented to the Church Synod.

Most of the amendments in the draft proposal are included in the sections dealing with the financial administration of the parishes but there is no question of any greater changes in matters of principle.

#### Stricter Legislation Regarding Better Press.

The Finnish Parliament has passed an amendment of the Act dealing with printed matters which through illustrations or texts are an affront to morals and decency. Until now it has been possible to seize such publications when they were deemed illegal, but the Amendment makes it possible, furthermore, for the authorities to prohibit them for a certain length of time when they have repeatedly transgressed the Law.

Some circles have opposed this Amendment on the grounds that it is against the principle of a free press. In this connection the Finnish-Swedish Church weekly "Tidningsbladet" remarks,

"If the Amendment were aimed at suppressing different points of view it should, of course, be rejected. But it is only a practical attempt at eradicating gutter press publications. Behind such publications there are no opinions but only a desire for profit. The deviation from the principle of the freedom of press seems to be of no great consequence. Since the spreading of immoral literature has to be brought to an end we cannot but come to the conclusion that the decision by Parliament was correct."

#### ICELAND

#### "The Church of Iceland is the Church of the Nation".

In a farewell interview the Minister of Church Affairs, Steingrinnur Steinjónsson, who retired some time ago after three years in office said that the two things which had made the greatest impression on him during his tenure of office were the sudden death of Bishop Sigurgeir Sigurdsson, and the 900 years' anniversary at Skálholt last summer. Moreover, he was happy that the Church of Iceland was the Church of the whole nation and also that he had been able to help the ministers to financial equality with other university trained people.

The close connection between the Church and the people was further emphasized by the celebration of a special church ser-





vice in the Cathedral of Reykjavik on the occasion of the continuation in office for another four years without new elections of the President of Iceland, Asgeir Asgeirsson, who was elected President in 1952 for a period of four years. At the special service Bishop Asmundur Gudmundsson preached over the text "Whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister". He spoke about the way of service as being the way of life and about the importance of building on the rock of the Word. "We wish for the President that he may reach the best a human being can reach: to become a disciple of Jesus who seeks the kingdom of God and His righteousness", the Bishop said in his sermon among other things.

#### NORWAY

#### "Seriousness Fitting - But Not Worry", the Bishops of Norway Declare.

The Bishops of the Norwegian Lutheran National Church in a pastoral letter concerning the international situation appeal to the Norwegian nation for seriousness, but warn against ineffective worry. It says in the message from the Bishops that the worries about a new world war are apt to confuse one's thoughts and make the hearts cold, and that we therefore have to help one another to keep a cool head and a warm heart. The message continues,

"A clear valuation without compromise of what is happening in Eastern Europe is not so difficult for most of us. For no reasons of prudence or fear do we abstain from calling injustice and sin by their proper names. Our own experience of being robbed of our national and spiritual freedom by brutal force, and the NO in which king and nation were united, oblige us to understand and come to the aid of all those who suffer under tyranny and who fight for the simplest of human rights. That was the demand of our Christian conscience at that time and it is the same to-day.

But the same clear judgment has to be employed when considering what is being said and what happens in our own country and in the countries to which we feel spiritually and nationally related. East and West are subject to the same unbending demand to accept that which is just and true and to respect treaties and rules agreed upon."

The Bishops further express their gratitude for the clear ethical line followed by the Norwegian Government in its valuation and choice of standpoint, and appeal for loyalty towards these principles. It is then stressed how important it is that feelings are kept warm for all the suffering people, also when the passing of time and habituation have had a cooling effect, and the Bishops emphasize that our charity has to include everybody, also "those whom we understand the least and whose deeds we have to condemn."

Finally the Norwegian Bishops point out that in Norway not everything is as it ought to be. The spiritual growth and moral fitness of mankind have not kept in step with the material improvements, and the spiritual and moral need is very closely connected with the events now shaking the world. For this reason





the Bishops appeal to everybody in the first place to fear and love God and put one's faith in Him by seeking Him in prayer. "In such prayer lie our hopes and strength, no matter what we may experience. Seriousness is fitting - but not worry."

#### Easier Access to Legally Induced Abortion ?

It has caused wide attention in Norway, not the least in religious circles that the Parliamentary Penal Code Commission in a quite recently published draft proposal goes in for much wider access to legally induced abortion. The Commission does not agree that only medical grounds should be considered when deciding upon a legally induced abortion but proposes that induced abortion should be legal in the following circumstances,

1. when it is necessary in order to prevent serious danger to the life and health of the mother,
2. when there is danger that the child may suffer from a serious illness or a serious physical or mental defect,
3. when gravidity may be considered the result of incest or rape or any other violent offence against the woman, or when the woman is insane or suffers from particularly strong mental deficiencies,
4. when serious and prolonged illness of husband or child, or alcoholism, criminality, housing shortage, or other particularly unhappy circumstances would turn the birth of a child into a disaster.

According to the proposal the physical and mental weak condition of the woman should be taken into consideration when weighing these reasons for legal abortion, - a wording which may, of course, be interpreted rather sweepingly,

The Penal Code Commission proposes that the decision in the individual cases should be placed in the hands of two physicians who, previous to a possible induced abortion, should give a written declaration that the case is within the limits of the Law. Finally attention is drawn to various social measures which might counteract the need for induced abortions.

The reason for the proposal is that in 1954 there were 3147 legally induced abortions as against 1655 in 1933 and 115 in 1920. The figure 3157 equals 5 % of the number of children born alive, and only 1/6 of the women concerned were unmarried, the rest married mothers. The number of illegal abortions in 1954 is roughly estimated at 5300 in the case of married women and 2000 in the case of unmarried women.

#### The Responsibility of the White Race in the Class-Struggle of the Nations.

"If we are not willing to share with others, the coloured races will themselves take their share, and more, in due time. It would not be unreasonable if they said, "Now let's change parts!"

With these words the well-known Oslo clergyman, Dr. Thorleif Boman, ends a notable article in the Christian daily "Vårt Land" in which he tries to draw up the broad lines of developments in





the world situation. He compares present events with the class-struggle in the West which, in the course of time, has brought the sections of population formerly kept down economically up to the same level as other sections of the community. Half the population of the world now exists at or below the starvation point, he writes, while North America and Western Europe have reached a standard of living higher than at any other time in history and the coloured races are now preparing for a class-struggle among the nations, the reality of which we must face. "If we do nothing or if we do too little catastrophe will overtake us: the revolt of the coloured races which is directed not only against the colonial powers but against the financial domination of the world by the white races."

Dr. Boman points out that the problem not only concerns politicians and technicians, but that it has an ethical side to it which is a matter of concern to all of us, and he continues,

"The problem is this: Is the white race willing to share its economic high standard with the coloured races? Is the white race willing to lower its own standard of living in order to raise that of the coloured races? This is the truth in its brutal simplicity. This is a very difficult fact to accept for people who let themselves be lulled in the belief that it is possible for us to achieve an ever increasing standard of living."

#### Recipient of Stalin Prize Appeals to Bulganin.

The Oslo clergyman, Rev. Ragnar Forbeck, who was awarded the Stalin Prize last year for his contribution towards the world peace movement of Eastern Europe, has sent a letter to the Prime Minister of the Soviet Union, Bulganin, following upon the events in Hungary, in which he strongly appeals to him to make his influence felt in order to obtain free entrance into Hungary of the Red Cross relief missions, and in order to prevent the brutal reprisals which are feared to be taking place. In a statement to the press on November 9th he told about his appeal, but at the same time emphasized that he stuck to his pacifistic point of view. "Charity must conquer over brutal force", he wrote.

#### SWEDEN

#### One of Sweden's Daily Papers to be Extended.

Sweden is one of the few countries in the world able to muster two specifically Christian dailies, the one published by the Pentecostal Mission under the heading of "Dagen" ("The Day"), the other published by the Free Churches and especially connected with the Svenska Missionsförbundet ("Mission Covenant Church of Sweden"), called "Svenska Morgonbladet".

In the most immediate future the latter will undergo a large-scale rearranging and extension both on the technical as well as on the journalistic level. At the same time the present editor of cultural matters at the "Stockholms Tidningen", Dr. Erik Hjalmar Linder, will be appointed Chief Editor together with the present Chief Editor, Per-Olof Hanson, and in addition 11 staff members





from the "Stockholms Tidningen" will likewise be employed by "Svenska Morgonbladet".

The background for this change is that "Stockholms Tidningen", as well as the evening edition of the paper "Aftenbladet" some months ago were sold by the millionaire, Torsten Kreuger, to the Swedish trade-unions for a sum of 10 million Swedish crowns. Until now "Stockholms Tidningen" has been closely connected with the Liberal People's Party, just as "Svenska Morgonbladet" was and even though the latter will not be a proper party organ in the future, a number of the present staff members of "Stockholms Tidningen" will in future be connected with "Svenska Morgonbladet".

In a manifest issued by the direction of "Svenska Morgonbladet" it says among other things that the paper in matters dealing with community and culture will further the respect for spiritual and moral values and in this sphere will try in earnest to work for the often mentioned close relationship between Christianity and Humanism. In accordance with the traditions of the paper, the religious efforts of the National Church and the Free Churches as well as the idealistically inspired national movements will be closely followed. The paper will be conducted in an ecumenical spirit.

#### Prohibition Against Motor Traffic on Sundays Complicates Church Attendance

The shortage of petrol and oil in Sweden has resulted in among other things a prohibition against using motor vehicles on Sundays in order to save petrol, and this has to some extent made church attendance difficult because so many people now-a-days use cars for going to and returning from church, and in particular it has complicated the work of the ministers.

For this reason Archbishop Yngve Brilioth has applied to the Government for a general permission for the ministers to make use of motor vehicles for official duties on Sundays, especially with regard to conducting church services and that a similar permission should be given to members of the congregations for driving to the parish churches. Finally the Archbishop draws the attention of the authorities to the fact that organists and other church servants often have a long way to the church where they are employed and that they, therefore, will have difficulty in carrying out their duties if they are not allowed to go by car.

#### Theologians and Lawyers Discuss Punishment and Therapeutics.

At a conference at the Rosé Institute in Lidings near Stockholm a number of prominent scholars of divinity and law have discussed questions relating to crime, punishment and therapeutics. The conference was arranged by the Social Committee of the Swedish Ecumenical Council and in the course of debate a wish for closer co-operation between clergymen, lawyers and representatives of prison welfare workers was expressed. Several speakers strongly advocated that the Churches take up a more intensive study of the public-ethical problem rather than maintaining an attitude of condemnation. Among the subjects discussed at the conference were "The Reason for Crime", "Justice and Man", "The Foundation of Justice", "Legislation and Education of the People", as well as the main central subject of "Punishment and Therapeutics".





### Neutral Investigation of the Relationship Between State and Church.

The Swedish Parliament has resolved to start an extensive investigation of the relationship between State and Church, more specifically the Lutheran National Church. The resolution was passed after a lively debate lasting ten hours, with 84 votes in favour and 35 against in the Lower House and 128 in favour and 57 against in the Upper House. It was strongly emphasized that the investigation should be unconditional or neutral, i.e. it should be directed neither at the continuation of the present organized connection between State and Church, nor at a severance of the ties between them. The only purpose of the investigation should be to present the material which is to constitute the basis for future deliberations regarding the mutual relations between State and Church.

Such investigations have been proposed several times during this century, but have been rejected by Parliament. This time the matter was once more taken up on the initiative of, among others, the present Swedish ambassador in Oslo, Rolf Edberg, who conducted an investigation last spring with a view to a separation of State and Church, but a Parliamentary Commission continuing this work, has decided that the investigation should be neutral. The majority of the Commission, including representatives of the Social Democratic Party and the Liberal People's Party, felt that such an investigation should take place, but emphasized strongly that the Church has been, and still is, of great importance to society as a whole. In the draft proposal of the Commission it says that "the values created by Christian activities in benefit of the nation are of such importance that great care should be taken to preserve them", and it stresses the point that no one will be in favour of measures which might be of irreparable damage to these values. According to the recommendation of the majority of the Commission, which was adopted by the majority in Parliament, among other things the investigation should deal with such questions as the religious instruction in schools, theological studies, the matter of the right to property used for religious purposes, public registration (carried out by church ministers), the burial authorities and salaries and pensions to ecclesiastical government servants.

The minority of the Commission, consisting of representatives of the Conservative Party and the Farmers' Party, supported by the the minority in Parliament, did not want any investigation because a possible future separation of Church and State would result in such an upheaval in religious, cultural and administrative spheres that the basis for it must be a **strongly voiced** desire by the population, a desire which so far has not been evident. Furthermore, it is stated that all the Cathedral Chapters, without exception, adopt a negative attitude towards the proposal for such an investigation, and it is feared that all suggestions for partial reforms in these matters will be rejected for, probably, many years to come while the investigation is taking place, on the grounds that they should be referred to the findings of the investigation committee.

### New Stockholm Church with Ecumenical Congregation.

On Sunday, December 2nd, a new church was dedicated in the big suburban town of Vällingby, West of Stockholm. The church and the adjoining congregational buildings are part of a veritable skyscraper housing project and are erected in a modern and untraditional





style. The bold style of building has caused general attention and reference in the press, but also in other respects has the church drawn attention.

The church has been erected by a congregation adhering to Svenska Missionsförbundet ("Swedish Mission Covenant Church"), but the congregation is also open to people who are members of other denominations, and a number of such congregational members have already been enrolled. Thus, it is the first case of an ecumenical Free Church in Sweden.

#### Revivalist Campaign in Stockholm in January and February.

A large group of clergymen from the Lutheran National Church as well as from the Free Churches are planning a large-scale revivalist campaign in Stockholm during January and February 1957. A number of preparatory meetings have already taken place and the training of laymen for service during the campaign is well on the way. The so-called AKO-team ("All-Kristen Offensiv" or "All Christian Offensive"), including representatives of the various denominations under the leadership of Rev. John Hedlund, is responsible for the planning of the big revivalist meetings.

By the way the Free Church Council of Stockholm at its meeting last month decided to invite Billy Graham to Stockholm in 1957 or 1958 in order to speak at a big Free Church rally and perhaps conduct meetings in the city during a period of two or three weeks.

#### The Sale of Alcohol Gone Up by 33 % Since Repeal of Rationing.

According to a report just published the sale of alcohol during the first year after the repeal of alcohol rationing on October 1st, 1955, has shown an increase of not less than 33 % as compared to the sale during the previous year. Most striking was the increase during the first quarters of this year, while the increase during the last quarter was "only" 29 % as compared to the same period last year. The sale during the month of October this year has been 30 % lower than during October 1955, but at that time it went up to 38 % in comparison with 1954, due to the abolition of rationing.

As a means to counteract the alarming misuse of alcohol, a fact causing also general concern in Church circles, the Swedish Parliament has now resolved to raise the tax on spirits with 5 Swedish crowns per litre. At the same time, more than one and a half million crowns have been granted towards the extension of the state institutions for alcoholists.

